

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1, 21, 22, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, and 40 are independent. The amendments herein do not necessarily narrow the scope of the claims.

Cited Art

U.S. Patent No. 6,393,289 to Bunting et al. ("Bunting") is entitled "Apparatus, method and system for wireless telecommunication session control by an adjunct network entity."

U.S. Patent No. 5,881,145 to Giuhath et al. ("Giuhath") is entitled "Redirection of calls to ported directory numbers in telephone networks."

U.S. Patent No. 5,550,911 is to Bhagat et al. ("Bhagat").

U.S. Patent No. 6,052,589 is to Persson et al. ("Persson").

U.S. Patent No. 6,601,031 is to O'Brian ("O'Brian").

Patentability of Claims 1, 5, 14, 17, 19-23, 25, 28, 32, 35, 37, and 40 over Bunting under § 102(e)

The Action rejects claims 1, 5, 14, 17, 19-23, 25, 28, 32, 35, 37, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bunting. Applicants respectfully submit the claims in their present form are allowable over the cited art. For a 102(e) rejection to be proper, the cited art must show each and every element as set forth in a claim. (See MPEP § 2131.01.) However, the cited art does not so show. For example, with respect to claim 1, Bunting does not teach or suggest "*wherein the detecting is based at least on the stored correlation information.*"

For purposes of clarification, Applicants have amended claim 1 for the sake of more easily presenting arguments. As amended, claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

based at least on the detecting the attempt to establish the second call leg forming a hairpin loop in conjunction with the first leg, *wherein the detecting is based at least on the stored correlation information, releasing at least the first call leg.*

There are various examples in the Application. For example, the Application at Page 7, lines 11 et seq., describes (with reference to FIG. 8):

For example, correlation information can be stored that can be compared for ports 842C and 842D to determine that the same call (e.g., the same calling party, same billing identifier, or other identifying information) is involved. Upon detecting a match between the correlation information, the port on which the call arrived 842A can be parked while the other ports 842C and 842D are released. During parking, silence can be applied to the voice path. The call can then be routed out the port 842B to its destination 814, forming the call leg 838.

The Action relies on Bunting, which describes as follows at column 8, lines 43 et seq. (emphasis added):

Next, in step 410, a control message from the adjunct network entity is received by the switch, with the control message containing information, such as directives, pertinent to the current or subsequent performance of the requested adjunct network service. In step 415, the *method determines whether the control message includes a redirection directive* indicating further routing or rerouting of the incoming call leg, such as to designated digits provided for a voice activated dialing service. When in step 415 the control message indicates such routing of the incoming call leg, the method proceeds to release or terminate the connection with the adjunct network entity (such as a circuit-based voice path connection), step 420, and routes the incoming call to the designated digits, step 425. As discussed above, termination/release step 420 eliminates the loop or hairpin connection of the prior art.

Thus, Bunting does describe “termination/release . . . eliminates the loop or hairpin connection of the prior art.” However, as understood by Applicant, such release does not take place based on detecting an attempt to form a hairpin loop, “*wherein the detecting is based at least on the stored correlation information.*” Instead, Bunting describes “the method determines whether the control message includes a *redirection directive* indicating further routing or rerouting of the incoming call leg.” Bunting thus relies on a redirection directive, rather than stored correlation information.

An advantage to the recited arrangement is described in Example 11 (page 15, lines 10 et seq.) of the Application: hairpin avoidance processing can be done transparently to service platform switches. By contrast, Bunting relies on the ability of the service platform that recognizes a redirection directive. Bunting fails to describe how to achieve hairpin avoidance via stored correlation information. Accordingly, Bunting fails to either teach or suggest the claimed arrangement.

Without belaboring the language of the other rejected independent claims (claims 22, 35, and 40), Applicants point out that they, too, recite language differentiating them over Bunting.

For example, claim 22 recites “correlating the outgoing call leg . . . based at least on the identifiers.” Claim 35 recites “upon detection of a match between call set up signaling information.” Claim 40 recites “responsive to the correlation.”

Claims 28 and 32 recite language regarding call set up information, which is not taught or suggested by Bunting. For example, claim 28 recites “detecting is based at least on call setup signaling information” and claim 32 recites “based at least on call setup signaling information.”

Accordingly, each of the claims 1, 5, 14, 17, 19-23, 25, 28, 32, 35, 37, and 40, and the corresponding dependent claims, 2-4, 6-13, 15-16, 18, 24, 26-27, 29-31, and 36-37, are allowable over Bunting.

Patentability of Claim 34 over Applicant admitted prior art

The Action rejects claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over Applicant admitted prior art. Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, claim 34 recites “providing a first outgoing call leg associated with the first incoming all leg to a service platform, wherein the first outgoing call leg comprises a correlation key” and “employing the correlation key to correlate the first outgoing call leg with the second incoming call leg.” Applicant does not find with in the background of the invention any material that would teach or suggest such a use of a “correlation key.”

For at least these reasons, claim 34 is allowable over any Applicant admitted prior art.

Patentability of Claims 38-39 under 102(b) over Giuhat

The Action rejects claims 38-39 using Giuhat. Claim 38 recites in part (emphasis added):

means operable to *detect a match between the correlation information and the call set up signaling information* for the call leg directed from the second switch back to the first switch and further operable to *removing the call leg* directed from the first switch to the second switch and the call leg directed from the second switch back to the first switch after detecting the match.

Giuhat describes at column 8, lines 45 et seq.:

6. On receipt by SSP 10 of an Initial Address Message containing, as the Called Party Number, its Location Routing Number (which cannot be dialed), an AIN Public Office Dialling Plan (PODP) trigger or Termination Attempt Trigger (. . .) will cause the SSP 10 to send a TCAP query to the TCAP module 70 of SCP 30, via STP 20 to request call instructions.

Thus, Giuhat does describe “Initial Address Message.” However, even if Giuhat could somehow be read to “detecting a match,” it still does not describe “removing the call leg.”

Accordingly, claim 38 and its dependent claim, 39, are allowable over Giuhat.

***Patentability of Claims 2-4, 6-11, 15, 16, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, and 33
under 103(a) over Bunting and Giuhat***

The Action rejects claims 2-4, 6-11, 15, 16, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, and 33 using Bunting and Giuhat. For those claims depending from claims allowable under 102(e) over Bunting, Applicant points out that Giuhat fails to contribute sufficient subject matter that would result in a 103(a) rejection.

For example, claim 2 recites in part:

comparing call setup signaling information associated with the first leg with call signaling information associated with the attempted second leg.

The Action turns to Giuhat for “call setup signaling information.” Giuhat describes at column 8, lines 45 et seq.:

6. On receipt by SSP 10 of an Initial Address Message containing, as the Called Party Number, its Location Routing Number (which cannot be dialed), an AIN Public Office Dialling Plan (PODP) trigger or Termination Attempt Trigger (. . .) will cause the SSP 10 to send a TCAP query to the TCAP module 70 of SCP 30, via STP 20 to request call instructions.

Thus, Giuat does describe “Initial Address Message.” However, Giuat fails to describe comparing call setup signaling information from a first leg with that of a second leg as recited in claim 2. Neither Guiat or Bunting contain a teaching or suggestion to combine or modify the disclosures to result in the claimed arrangement.

Accordingly, claim 2 is allowable over Guiat and Bunting for at least these additional reasons.

Claims 3-4, 6-11, 15, 16, 24, 26, 27, 30, and 31 are allowable because their respective base claims are allowable over Bunting, and Guiat fails to contribute sufficient motivation or additional description that would teach or suggest their respective arrangements.

Claim 33 recites “determining that the outgoing number and the incoming identifier are identical.” As understood by Applicant, Bunting in light of Guiat fails to teach or suggest such an arrangement.

For at least these reasons, these claims are allowable at this time.

Patentability of Claims 12 under 103(a) over Bunting, Giuhat, and Bhagat

The Action rejects claim 12 using Bunting, Giuhat, and Bhagat. Although Applicant disagrees that a Bunting-Giuhat-Bhagat combination would result in the recited arrangement, Applicant points out that Giuhat and Bhagat fail to contribute a teaching or suggestion that would result in the recited arrangement of independent claim 1, from which claim 12 depends. Accordingly, claim 12 is allowable at least because its respective base claim is allowable.

Patentability of Claims 13 under 103(a) over Bunting, Giuhat, and Persson

The Action rejects claim 13 using Bunting, Giuhat, and Persson. Although Applicant disagrees that a Bunting-Giuhat-Persson combination would result in the recited arrangement, Applicant points out that Giuhat and Persson fail to contribute a teaching or suggestion that would result in the recited arrangement of independent claim 1, from which claim 13 depends. Accordingly, claim 13 is allowable at least because its respective base claim is allowable.

Patentability of Claims 18 under 103(a) over Bunting, Giuhat, and O'Brien

The Action rejects claim 18 using Bunting, Giuhat, and O'Brien. Although Applicant disagrees that a Bunting-Giuhat-O'Brien combination would result in the recited arrangement, Applicant points out that Giuhat and O'Brien fail to contribute a teaching or suggestion that would result in the recited arrangement of independent claim 1, from which claim 18 depends. Accordingly, claim 18 is allowable at least because its respective base claim is allowable.

Patentability of Claims 29 and 36 under 103(a) over Bunting and Bhagat

The Action rejects claims 29 and 36 using Bunting and Bhagat. Although Applicant disagrees that a Bunting-Bhagat combination would result in the recited arrangements, Applicant points out that Bhagat fails to contribute a teaching or suggestion that would result in the recited arrangement of independent claims 28 or 35, from which claims 29 and 36 depend. Accordingly, claims 29 and 36 are allowable at least because their respective base claims are allowable.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicants submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

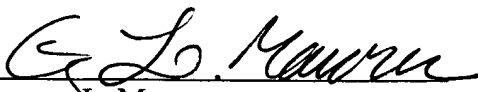
This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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